

Dear sirs. The so called Baby Bells do indeed dominate the Telecom market. The proposed legislation would effectively grant them carte blanche to eliminate any competition.

Competition requires competitors to be alive. If the FCC lifts the dominant classification from the Local Exchange Carriers (Bells), it will limit competition to a duopoly consisting of a bell and a cable company. Competition in the American Telecom marketplace will not be incentivized, it will be torpedoed. ISPs and CLECs will die, consumers will be deprived of choice and the FCC will be wholly to blame.

Chairman Powell: Please do not sell out the consumer and the small businesses of our country. You may be able to afford the access rates that would be a direct result of this legislation, but I assure you, the rest of us can ill afford it.